

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating with a peripheral computer system comprising the steps of:
 - a) creating a two-way communication link from said peripheral computer system with a host computer system using one transport mechanism of a plurality of possible transport mechanisms;
 - b) said host computer system recognizing said one transport mechanism used in step a) by adaptation software executing on said host computer system;
 - c) said host computer system determining a communication protocol from a plurality of possible communication protocols based on recognition of said one transport mechanism, wherein said determining comprises indexing a table with said one transport mechanism recognized in step b) to determine at least one parameter in the communication protocol, and wherein said table comprises parameters that are designed to improve communication based on the transport mechanism; and
 - d) said host computer system communicating information to said peripheral computer system based on said communication protocol determined at step c).
2. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of transport mechanisms comprises: communication via a serial line coupled to said host computer; communication via a networked line coupled to said host computer using a network; communication via a wireless link to said host computer; and communication via the Internet.
3. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication protocol determined at step c) restricts data volume communicated to said peripheral computer system.
4. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication protocol determined at step c) selects a particular user authentication protocol performed to establish data communication between said peripheral computer system and said host computer system.

5. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication protocol determined at step c) selects a particular data encryption protocol performed to establish data communication between said peripheral computer system and host computer system.

6. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication protocol determined at step c) selects a particular data set that can be accessed by said peripheral computer system.

7. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said peripheral computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

8. (Previously Presented) A method as described in Claim 1 and further comprising the step of e) updating said plurality of communication protocols by updating said table on said host computer system, wherein said step e) comprises the steps of:

e1) allowing a first set of said plurality of communication protocols to be updated by a system administrator, said first set applied to all users; and

e2) allowing a second set of said plurality of communication protocols to be updated by a given user accessing said host computer system with said peripheral computer system, said second set applicable only to said given user.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating with a peripheral computer system comprising:

a) a host computer system;
b) a peripheral computer system;
c) a two-way communication link between said host computer system and said peripheral computer system, said communication link being established on one transport mechanism of a plurality of transport mechanisms;

d) adaptation software for execution on said host computer system, said adaptation software for recognizing which of said plurality of transport mechanisms is said one transport mechanism;

e) said host computer system also operable to determine a communication protocol from a plurality of communication protocols based on which of said plurality of transport mechanisms is used, wherein said host computer system uses a table defining a communication protocol having a plurality of parameters for each of the transport mechanisms, wherein like parameters for different communication protocols are separately adjustable to adapt each communication protocol to a respective transport mechanism; and

f) said host computer system also operable to communicate information to said peripheral computer system based on said communication protocol determined in paragraph e).

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein:

g) said peripheral computer system operable to recognize said transport mechanism of said plurality of transport mechanisms;

h) said peripheral computer system also operable to determine said communication protocol from said plurality of communication protocols based on said transport mechanism used; and

i) said peripheral computer system also operable to communicate information to said host computer system based on said communication protocol determined in paragraph h).

11. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said plurality of transport mechanisms comprises: communication via a serial line coupled to said host computer; communication via a networked line coupled to said host computer using a network; communication via a wireless link to said host computer; and communication via the Internet.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 9 further comprising: a user interface coupled to said peripheral computer system, said user interface operable for allowing a user to update a set of said plurality of communication protocols, said set applicable only to said user.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 9 further comprising: a system administrator interface coupled to said host system, said system administrator interface operable for allowing a

system administrator to update a set of said plurality of communication protocols, said set applicable to all users.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said communication protocol restricts data volume communicated to said peripheral computer system.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said communication protocol selects a particular user authentication protocol performed to establish data communication between said peripheral computer system and said host computer system.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said communication protocol selects a particular data encryption protocol to be used for data communication between said peripheral computer system and host computer system.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said communication protocol selects a particular data set that can be accessed by said peripheral computer system.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 9 wherein said peripheral computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for transferring information on a host computer system and a personal digital assistant, said apparatus comprising:

a two-way communication link, said communication link connecting said host computer system to said peripheral computer system, said two-way communication link using one transport mechanism of a plurality of transport mechanisms;

identification software residing on said host computer system, said identification software for determining which of said plurality of transport mechanisms is used on said two-way communication link;

adaptation software residing on said host computer system, said adaptation software operable to determine a communication protocol from a plurality of communication protocols based on which of said plurality of transport mechanisms is used on said two-way

communication link, wherein said adaptation software allows communication protocol parameters to be adjusted separately for each of the plurality of transport mechanisms; and communication software residing on said host computer system, said communication software operable to transfer data between said host computer system and said peripheral computer system based on said communication protocol determined by said adaptation software.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 further comprising: a user parameter program residing on said peripheral computer system, said user parameter program operable to allow a set of said plurality of communication protocols to be updated by a given user, said set applicable only to said given user.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 further comprising: an administrator parameter program residing on said host computer system, said user administrator parameter program operable to allow a set of said plurality of communication protocols to be updated by a system administrator, said set applicable to all users in a system.